

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY

2001 Public Library Statistics

INTRODUCTION

Each year New Hampshire public libraries complete the New Hampshire Public Library Annual Report (NHPLAR). The 2001 edition of the N.H. Public Library Statistics tabulates data collected on the NHPLAR. Although public libraries are required by New Hampshire statute to report annually to the State Librarian, some do not do so. This makes New Hampshire's statistical data less than complete. Out of 231 public libraries in New Hampshire, 218 submitted reports.

New Hampshire cooperates with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the collection of uniform public library statistical data for national compilation and publication of the annual federal Ed Tabs series for educational institutions throughout the United States.

It is important to remember performance measures and comparative statistics are not absolutes. Statistics acquire different meanings in different contexts. There are no right or wrong measures and no single measure tells a complete story. Any library's statistics should be considered in the contexts of its mission, roles and goals. When comparing statistics with other libraries, choose meaningful comparison groups. Population may not be the most meaningful comparison, but perhaps library income or library circulation is instead. Assistance in analyzing the statistics contained in this publication is available from the N.H. State Library Development Services Section.

The population figures used are those provided by the U.S. Department of the Census from the official 2000 census. During the 2001 reporting year, 26 libraries operated on a fiscal year covering the period July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 and 204 libraries operated on a calendar year covering the period January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001.

Data for all reporting libraries is listed alphabetically by community name. Each section repeats the population and county for every community. A table at the end lists community populations by county. This report reflects:

1. All monies available to a library during a reporting year by source of income
2. All expenditures made by a library regardless of the source of funds
3. Library service hours and library usage
4. Library collections and technology
5. Library paid personnel data

Selected per capita and percentage figures have been calculated by the State Library and presented in columns next to the respective data from which the figures were derived.

Public Library coverage of special note:

- Albany contracts with Conway
- Sharon contracts with Peterborough
- Winsor contracts with Hillsboro
- Hall Memorial Library, Northfield serves the community of Tilton
- Bartlett Public Library is a combined school/public library
- Bremer Pond Memorial Library, Pittsburg is a combined school/public library
- Campton Public Library is a combined school/public library
- Lyme Town Library is a combined school/public library
- Nute High School & Library is a combined school/public library
- Piermont Public Library is a combined school/public library
- Thornton Public Library is a combined school/public library
- Unity Free Public Library is a combined school/public library